

South-West *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group Single Yellow_____ (color)

Facilitator Ed Bible_____

Recorder-Reporter Joni Herren_____

Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: 4) Provide financial incentives for college grads to keep them in the state; emulate the “Stay in Iowa” campaign with governor as focal point.

Priority response #2 (votes: 3) Encourage and reward regional economic approaches.

Priority response #3 (votes: 2) Review regulatory and tax policies to encourage corp. to keep total operations in state.

Priority response #4 (votes: 2) Intensify efforts at business retention and expansion within the state.

Priority response #5 (votes: 2) When region identifies projects/needs, help. Target leveraging federal dollars to support regional efforts.

Priority response #6 (votes: 2) Continue to support “smart growth” initiative (a local approach that supports regional cooperation.

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Provide financial incentives for college grads to keep them in the state; emulate the “Stay in Iowa” campaign (with the governor as the focal point) or that of other states.

***“Stay in Iowa” Campaign**

- *Reduce, eliminate, or forgive student loans if college student stays in Wisconsin.
- *Provide tax breaks to businesses who hire Wisconsin grads for targeted job classifications.
- *Provide these student loan incentives in targeted regions of the state, and regions should be able to prioritize their own needs.
- *Develop a program to assist recent grads to get affordable housing after graduation for new employees.
- *Provide mortgage assistance for first-time homeowners (not tied to lower income, but for Wisconsin grads who will remain in the state.)
- *Provide tax incentives on personal income for recent grads who remain in the state.
- *Provide tuition assistance for continued education for employees in targeted geographic areas and targeted educational areas.
- *Education programs through DPI to educate students on opportunities and positive lifestyle in Wisconsin.
- *Evaluate long-term strategies to retain valued employees through tax incentives, etc.
- *Strategies or programs to support the trailing spouse of primary wage earner in areas of employment, education, entrepreneurship, etc.